

MESSAGE NOTES

The Story

Chapter 1, The Beginning of Life as We Know It

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September 17, 2023

God _____.

God _____ you with a _____.

God _____ you for _____.

God _____ you to live in _____.

Sin _____, _____ and _____.

Will you allow His story to become part of your story?

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CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

For the week of September 17, 2023

The Story - Chapter 1, The Beginning of Life As We Know It

GETTING STARTED

1. We've all had prized possessions (i.e., gifts given to us as children, family heirlooms, and expensive purchases.) And most likely, at one time or another, someone or something has ruined or broken something we cherish. Can you share such a time in your life and what was destroyed?

2. Chapter 1 shows that everything began with God creating and ordering. How is this different than other explanations you have heard of how the world began? How might knowing that life has purpose and direction affect your daily decisions?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What do think it means to be made in the image of God (page 2-3)?

Part of the meaning of being made in the image of God is that we were made for relationships and community. When sin entered the world, relationships were destroyed. Describe the change in relationships that occurred between the following:

- a. God and mankind
 - b. Adam and Eve
 - c. Mankind and the rest of creation
 - d. Mankind and everlasting life
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2. After each event in the creation story, God said, "It is good." Where does God say it is not good (p. 4)? What does this say about God's plan for the human family?

3. What do you think Eve's real sin was? What role did Adam play in the process?

Explain how Adam and Eve played the "blame game" (p. 5). Why is it so hard for us to accept responsibility for our bad choices?

4. What can we learn about work from Chapter 1 of The Story?

5. Discuss the parallels between Noah's culture and our own. What attributes and actions of Noah can help us face the challenges of godly living in the world today?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION _____

1. Many people perceive God as vengeful and distant when they encounter an event such as the flood in the Old Testament. While God clearly establishes Himself as Judge of His creation, Chapter 1 is overflowing with examples of His love and grace. How many can you identify? God made a promise to Noah never again to destroy mankind by a flood and He confirmed it with a rainbow. What promises has He made to you?

****Make sure you read through Chapter 2 before you come to church next weekend.***

PRAYER REQUESTS _____

